3. Indian athletic teams are being sent abroad to participate in international tournaments.

4. The help of Sports Scientists is being taken to improve the performance of our athletes.

WADA Sanctions

715. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) in the wake of recent incidences of dope cases involving Indian athletes/sportsmen in large numbers, what corrective steps have been taken by the Indian Olympic Association/Government;

(b) whether India is a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Agency declaration and if so, whether India has cleared its past and present membership dues to WADA; and

(c) wheher it is a fact that WADA's sanctions against erring member country would deny the country the right to carry the National flag on Olypic ceremories and non-playing of National Anthem for the winning athlete/team?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) The Indian Olypic Associations and National Sports Federation are primarily the action taking authorities against sportspersons found guilty of a doping offence. However, the Government of India, through Sports Authority of India has made serious efforts to keep away sports persons from use of any kind of prohibited drugs. During the coaching camps, strict instructions have been issued to the coaches attached with the campers to educate and regularly counsel and players about the banned drugs. Apart from this,the sports medicine doctors at NS NIS< Patiala and other regional centres conduct lecture, wherever camps are being held, to educate the players not to use any banned drugs. At the time of commencement of the camp, each player is being provided with documents and brochures about the banned substances.The list of banned drugs and placards for education of players are put in the rooms of campers. Rooms and belongings of players are also searched and checked at regular intervals to see that no banned drugs are used besides testing the urine samples of sports persons during

the coaching camps at random. Sports persons who have been found positive for Dope are removed from the camp/SAI Schemes and action is initiated against their coaches also, if found guilty. The Govt, of India has stopped giving any assistance to sports persons found guilty of doping offence under its sports promotion and other schemes. The IOA and Nationai Sports Federations take action against guilty players as per their rules and the rules of the respective international federations.

(b) The proposal regarding signing the World Anti-Doping Agency declaration is under active consideration of the Govt, and once the Government approves the proposal, India would be signing the Copenhagen Declaration 2003 on Anti-Doping in Sports. India has already paid the first year's subscription to WADA and the dues for the year 2003 would be paid very soon after Government approval.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of House.

Sports Competitions for Women

†716. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government organise the women sports competitions;

(b) if so.the deails thereof; and

(c) the details of such competitions organised during the last three years including the current year, year-wise and place-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Under the Scheme of National Sports Championships for Women, Central financial assistance is extended to the States/UTs through the Sports Authority of India on receipt of viable proposals from them for organization of sports competitions for women at Block, District and State levels in selected sports disciplines. While Central assistance is given to the Sports Authority of India for organization of the National level sports competitions, the Block, District and State level competitions are organized by the State/Union Territory Governments.

(c) The details of competitions held during the last 3 years are as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.